

Amendments to the Claims:

The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ A method of manufacturing a stretched mechanical fastening web laminate (1)-comprising a thermoplastic web layer (13)-having two major surfaces, one of the major surfaces bearing a multitude of male fastening elements (14)-suitable for engagement with a corresponding female fastening material, and on its other major surface a fibrous web layer-(11), said method comprising the steps of
 - (i) providing the fibrous web layer (11)-having an initial basis weight ~~of between 10 and 400~~ g m^{-2} ,
 - (ii) passing the fibrous web layer (11)-through a nip formed by two rolls-(101), (103), one of them having cavities (120)-that are the negatives of a plurality of male fastening elements (14), introducing a molten thermoplastic resin into the cavities (120)-in excess of an amount that would fill the cavities (120)-which excess forms the thermoplastic web layer (13), allowing the resin to at least partially solidify and stripping of a precursor web laminate (10)-thus formed comprising the fibrous web layer (11)-and the thermoplastic web layer (13)-bearing a ~~the plurality~~ multitude of male fastening elements-(14), from the ~~cylindrical-roll (103)-having cavities, (120)-whereby wherein~~ the thermoplastic web layer (13)-has an initial thickness and an initial ~~hook~~ density of male fastening elements, and
 - (iii) stretching the precursor web laminate (10)-monoaxially or biaxially thereby decreasing the basis weight of the fibrous web layer (11)-and the thickness of the thermoplastic web layer (13)-from their respective initial values to provide a stretched mechanical fastening laminate (1)-having a basis weight of less than 100 g m^{-2} .
2. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ A method of manufacturing a stretched mechanical fastening web laminate (1)-comprising a thermoplastic web layer (13)-having two major surfaces, one of the major surfaces bearing a multitude of male fastening elements (14)-suitable for

engagement with a corresponding female fastening material, and on its other major surface a fibrous web layer ~~(11)~~, said method comprising the steps of

- (i) extruding the thermoplastic web layer ~~(13)~~ bearing on one major surface a plurality of elongate spaced ribs in a machine direction (MD) with the cross-sectional shape of the ribs essentially corresponding to the cross-sectional shape of the male fastening elements ~~(14)~~ to be formed, whereby wherein the thermoplastic web layer ~~(13)~~ has an initial thickness,
 - (ii) providing the fibrous web layer ~~(11)~~ having an initial basis weight ~~of between 10 and 400~~
 $\frac{\text{g}}{\text{m}^2}$,
 - (iii) extrusion-laminating the fibrous web layer ~~(11)~~ to the major surface of the thermoplastic web layer ~~(13)~~ opposite to the major surface bearing the elongate spaced ribs, thus providing a precursor web laminate ~~(10)~~,
 - (iv) slitting the ribs in a cross-direction (CD) at spaced locations to form discrete portions of the ribs in CD the cross-direction with a width-length in the direction of the ribs essentially corresponding to ~~the~~ a desired length of the male fastening elements ~~(14)~~ to be formed, and stretching the precursor web laminate ~~(10)~~ monoaxially or biaxially thereby decreasing the basis weight of the fibrous web layer ~~(11)~~ and the thickness of the thermoplastic web layer ~~(13)~~ from their respective initial values to provide a stretched mechanical fastening laminate ~~(1)~~ having a basis weight of less than $100 \frac{\text{g}}{\text{m}^2}$ $\frac{\text{g}}{\text{m}^2}$.
3. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 1, wherein the ~~mechanical male~~ fastening elements ~~or the elongate spaced ribs, respectively,~~ are subjected prior to or after stretching to thermal, mechanical or radiation energy.
 4. (canceled)
 5. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 1, wherein the fibrous web layer ~~(11)~~ comprises one or more nonwoven materials.

6. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 5, wherein the fibrous nonwoven web layer (11) is made by airlaying, spunbonding, spunlacing, bonding of melt blown webs ~~and or~~ bonding of carded webs.
7. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 5, wherein the fibrous nonwoven web layer (11) comprises a plurality of filaments ~~selected from a group comprising~~ at least one of natural fibers, spun yarn fibers, fibers of nylon, polyamides, polyesters or polyolefins, core-sheath bicomponent fibers, or monocomponent fibers ~~or any combination of these~~.
8. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 7, wherein the filaments of the fibrous nonwoven web layer (11) exhibit an average titer from 0.5 to 10 dtex.
9. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 7, wherein the initial density of male fastening elements (14) of the precursor web laminate (10) is between 10 and 5,000 per cm².
10. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 7, wherein the initial thickness of the thermoplastic web layer (13) of the precursor web laminate (10) is between 10 and 750 μ m.
11. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 7, wherein the thermoplastic web layer (13) of the precursor web laminate (10) comprises a thermoplastic polymer ~~selected from the group comprising~~ polyesters, polyamides ~~and or~~ polyolefins.
12. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 7, wherein the male fastening elements (14) of the precursor web laminate (10) comprise a stem projecting from the ~~exposed~~ surface of the thermoplastic web layer (13).

13. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim ~~11~~ 12, wherein the stems of the male fastening elements (~~14~~) of the precursor web laminate (~~10~~) comprise an enlarged section which is positioned at their end opposite to the surface of the thermoplastic web layer (~~13~~).
14. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim ~~12~~ 13, wherein the enlarged ~~portions~~ sections form hooks, T's, J's or mushroom heads.
15. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 11, wherein precursor web laminate (~~10~~) is stretched monoaxially in a machine-direction (~~MD~~) or a cross-direction (~~CD~~) so that ~~the~~ a stretch ratio of the resulting stretched mechanical fastening laminate (~~1~~) relative to the precursor web laminate (~~10~~) is between 1.5:1 to 10:1.
16. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 1, wherein the precursor web laminate (~~10~~) is stretched sequentially or simultaneously biaxially in ~~CD~~ a cross-direction and ~~MD~~ a machine direction so that ~~the~~ a stretch ratio of the resulting stretched mechanical fastening laminate (~~1~~) relative to the precursor web laminate (~~10~~) in ~~CD~~ the cross-direction and ~~MD~~ the machine direction is, independently from each other, between 1.1 to 10:1.
17. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 16, wherein the product of the stretch ratio in ~~MD~~ the machine direction times the stretch ratio in ~~CD~~ the cross-direction is between 2:1 and 35:1.
18. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 15, wherein monoaxially stretching ~~in a first direction~~ is obtained by passing the precursor web laminate in the machine direction ~~of stretch~~ over rollers of increasing speed.
19. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 16, wherein the precursor web laminate (~~10~~) is simultaneously biaxially stretched in a flat film tenter stretching apparatus.

20. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 16, wherein the fibrous web layer (+1) comprised in the stretched mechanical fastening laminate (+1) has a basis weight of from 1 to 30 g/m^2 .
21. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 20, wherein the a ratio of the initial basis weight of the fibrous web layer (+1) to the basis weight of the fibrous web layer comprised in the stretched mechanical fastening web laminate (+1) is between 3 ~~[-]~~ and 40.
22. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 20, wherein the stretched thermoplastic web layer (+3) has a thickness of between 5 ~~[-]~~ and 25 μm .
23. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 22, wherein the a ratio of the initial thickness of the thermoplastic web layer (+3) of the precursor web laminate (+10) to the thickness of the thermoplastic web layer (+3) of the stretched mechanical fastening web laminate (+1) is between 3 ~~[-]~~ and 40.
24. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 20, wherein the density of the male fastening elements (+14) of the stretched mechanical fastening web laminate (+1) is between 1 and 2,500 per cm^2 .
25. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 24, wherein the density of the male fastening elements (+14) of the stretched mechanical fastening web laminate (+1) is between 2 and 200 per cm^2 .
26. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 24, wherein the stretched mechanical fastening web laminate (+1) exhibits a tensile strength in ~~MD~~ the machine direction as measured according to DIN EN ISO 527 of at least 15 N/25mm.

27. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 24, wherein portions of the stretched mechanical fastening web laminate ~~(1)~~ are obtained by cutting it in ~~CD~~ the cross-direction.

28-33. (canceled)

34. (new) The method according to claim 1, wherein the fibrous web layer has an initial basis weight of between 10 and 400 g/m².